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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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This report was prepared by a Department of the Army interrogator and is forwarded essentially as received.

Source's Mobilization

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1. [redacted] from a courier from the Selsovet (local rural administrative unit), who delivered a notice to source at his home; it ordered him to appear the following day at the Michurinsk (N 52-54, E 40-30) voyenkomat on Krasnoarmey-skaya ulitsa.

2. [redacted] the second section of the voyenkomat and, after a short wait, he and 30-40 other men were called in to give personal data, such as: full name, date and place of birth, social background, education, profession, party affiliation, names of parents, place of employment, and marital status. Source then received an induction registration card (pripisnoye svidetelstvo).

3. [redacted] before or after registration because he was employed. According to a post World War II regulation, only kolkhozniki, sovkhozniki, and unemployed persons were required to undergo this type of training.

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Source's Induction

5. [redacted] 30-40 other inductees from the voyenkomat to the Michurinsk railway station where they boarded a freight train to Tambov (N 44-31, E 41-46). In Tambov they were taken to the oblastnoy (regional) voyenkomat where there were groups of men from other towns and villages. Source did not know the reason or basis for the breakdown into groups. Here they were given another medical examination. The men who passed the examination were then divided into two or three groups, according to a list. Each group received orders regarding the hour they should be ready to leave the voyenkomat courtyard.
6. Source's group of about 800 men was led by a sergeant from the voyenkomat building to the railroad station where they were loaded into freight cars. The men were not told of the ultimate destination(s). At several points along the way, the train underwent changes in the number of cars; however, source did not know any details of the changes. At Voronezh the 800 men were divided into groups. Source was assigned to a group of about 130 men who were placed into three freight cars, each equipped with triple-deck wooden-plank beds (nary). The group was shipped to Lenkoran' (N 38-45, E 48-50). Source did not know the ultimate destination of the other groups but knew that they travelled "farther west".
7. The journey from Tambov to Lenkoran' lasted seven days. The only towns [redacted] E 39- [redacted] Lenkoran', the group was met by representatives of the [redacted] Guard Otryad who took them to the unit's caserne.¹

Rejections and Deferments

8. Only a few of the men who appeared for a physical examination were rejected on medical grounds. Source did not know the basis for any rejections in his group but believed that men who were rejected as physically unfit were sent to what he called "labor battalions".² Source knew of only one instance of deferment; a friend of his in Michurinsk was deferred because his father was deceased and he had to support his invalid mother. Graduates of the FZO (Fabrichno-Zavodskoye Obucheniye - Factory Work School), where courses lasted six months, were subject to induction immediately after graduation. Graduates of railroad and trade schools, where courses lasted for two years, had to work two years after graduation before they were liable for induction.

Year Classes

9. Source had no information on members of his year class nor did he know whether his unit or other Soviet units were being built up to wartime strength. The CO of [redacted] Zastava, belonged to the 1927 year class and the Political Officer belonged to the class of 1918. Both were senior lieutenants.

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Demobilization and Transfers Prior To Completion of Tours of Duty

10. Source did not know of any personnel who had been demobilized for medical, political, criminal, or compassionate reasons nor was he aware of the grounds for early demobilization. Three privates in the 11th Border Guard Zastava volunteered for the Border Guard School in Yebrail (N 38-19, E 47-00) and had not returned to their unit at the time of source's defection; source did not know whether they had been transferred from the parent unit.
11. [redacted] he never had the opportunity to see any special trains moving hospitalized personnel or prisoners from occupation areas to the USSR. Although he believed that prisoners were transported on special trains, he had no specific data.

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Replacement of Officers and EM

12. Source heard from EM in his zastava that an officer who had left the unit had been immediately replaced by another officer. He had no further information on replacement of officers or EM or any knowledge of active army or border guard replacement pools or depots.

Reserves

13. Source had no information on reserve service, reserve training or reserve mobilization and could not differentiate between reserve and regular army officers.

Labor Services

14. Source remembered that there was a labor recruiter (verbovshik) in Michurinsk who, from time to time, posted job announcements. Volunteers for the jobs reported to him and he sent them to a destination unknown to source. Source had no data on the proportion of males and females called for labor service but believed that males physically unfit for military service could be taken into "labor battalions".²

Women in the Armed Forces

15. Source knew a female lieutenant who worked as a feldsher (medical officer) at the 44th Border Guard Otryad hospital in Lenkoran'. She wore either a doctor's smock or a uniform with shoulder boards identical in color to those worn by border guard officers; however, source could not describe them in detail. The 44th Border Guard Otryad also employed female civilian typists. All were volunteers (volnonayemnoye) and were usually the wives of border guard officers. Source had no other information on women in the armed services or on civilian volunteers.

Career Enlisted Men (Sverkhsrochniki)

16. Source knew of no reenlistee in his border guard zastava. At the komendatura he only knew six. One was a senior sergeant but source did not know what his duties were. The other five carried out diversified duties on the battalion staff and served as clerks, movie projectionists, chauffeurs, finance NCO's, first sergeants, and mechanics. Source reiterated that all of these sverkhsrochniki were NCO's, however, he could not understand how anyone with the grade of private or PFC would be foolish enough to reenlist.³

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17. Source never saw any Soviet Army or border guard reenlistees with special identifying insignia or stripes to indicate that he had re-enlisted. Border guard reenlistees were entitled to special privileges, such as, being allowed to wear civilian clothes off duty and entitled to receive an unknown amount of annual leave. Source had seen these reenlistees wearing uniforms made of good material similar to that used by officers and wearing leather boots. The only difference between the reenlistees' uniforms and those of officers was the absence of a stripe along the reenlistees' trousers. Source believed that reenlistees received about 700-800 rubles a month but did not think this amount increased with further re-enlistments.
18. In September 1952, a reenlistee sergeant, who worked in Lenkoran' as a finance NCO with the 44th Border Guard Otryad and who carried pay-rolls to the border zastavas as one of his duties, put on civilian clothes, took along the loaded pistol he carried while attending to payroll matters, and went out to Lenkoran'. Here, he got drunk, started firing his weapon, wounded one soldier, and killed a civilian. He received a public court-martial at the Lenkoran' border guard club, or lecture hall. Source was able to attend the trial for a few minutes between details. An EM testified that the two victims had tried to steal money from the accused and, as a result, the sverkhstrochnik was sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment.

Military Districts

19. Although source knew of the Transcaucasian, Moscow, and Voronezh Military districts, he did not know the total number of military districts in the USSR and had never heard of the Gorkiy Military District.

Military Education in Civilian Schools

20. Source had no information on the type or extent of military education given in Soviet civilian schools, and, although a DOSAAF organization existed in Michurinsk, he did not know if there was any connection between it and the civilian schools.

Comments:

1.

claimed that he was first aware that he was destined for border guard service when he noticed that the escort on the Voronezh-Lenkoran' part of his journey consisted of border guards.

2. Source had no real knowledge of labor units as such, he believed that he had heard the term especially when referring to military units engaged in railroad construction work.

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